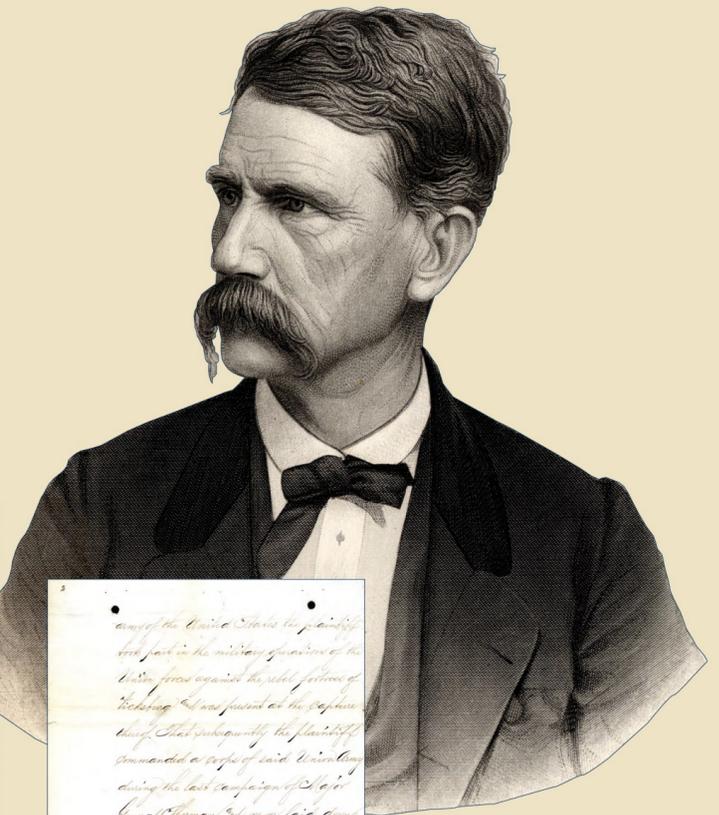


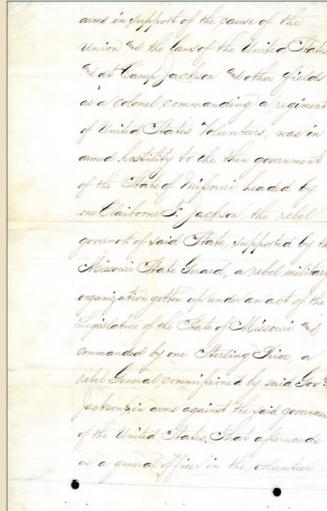
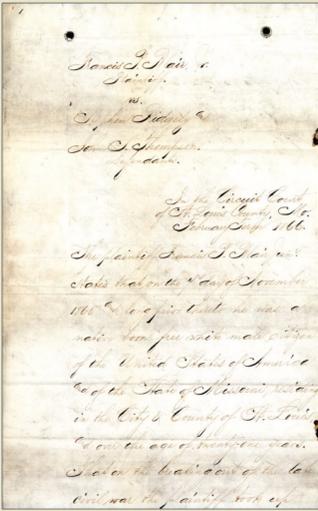
## FRANK BLAIR'S OATH

Even though Frank Blair had been a pro-Union Congressman and major general in the Union Army, he opposed the use of the Iron Clad Oath. While attempting to vote in an 1866 municipal election in St. Louis County, Blair refused to take the oath. Instead, he handed election officials an affidavit containing his own oath of allegiance to the United States and the State of Missouri. The election judges rejected Blair's ballot because he had not used the oath prescribed in the 1865 state constitution.

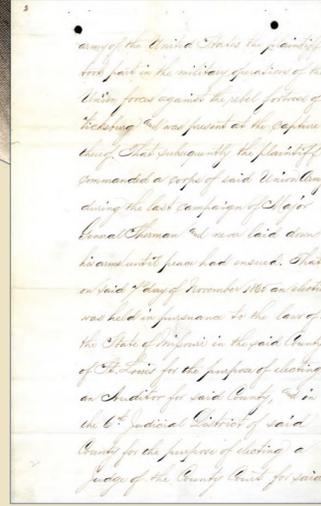
After his ballot was rejected, Blair sued but lost in circuit court. The Missouri Supreme Court also rejected his challenge to the oath. A final appeal to the United States Supreme Court ended in a badly fractured court whose failure to muster a majority let the earlier decision stand. The Iron Clad Oath was removed from the Missouri Constitution in 1870.



Francis Preston Blair, Jr.  
Missouri State Archives



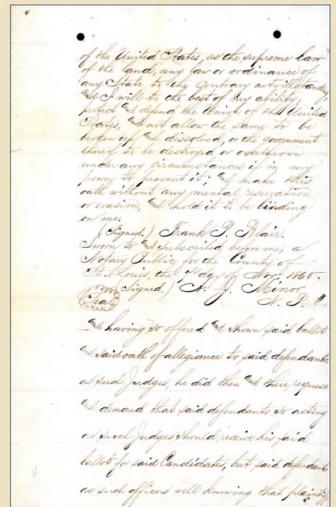
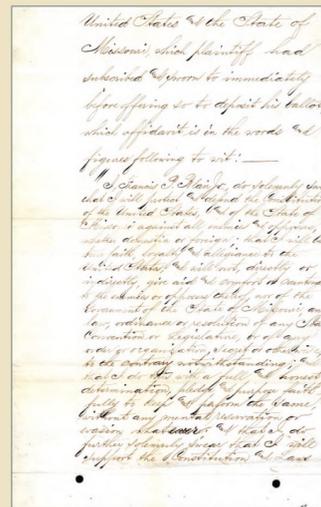
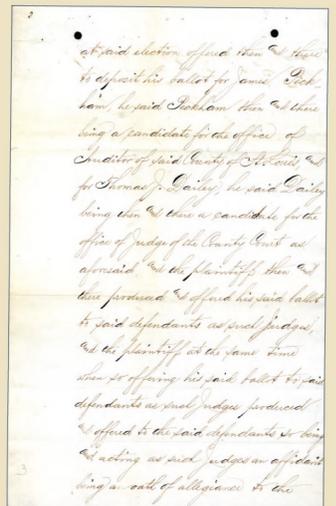
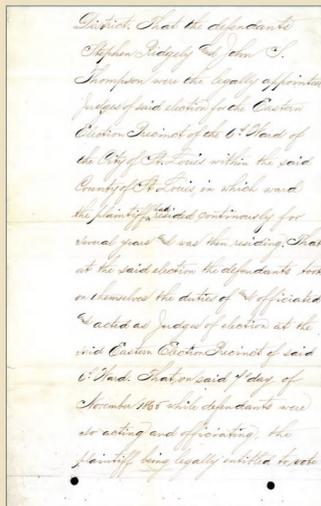
Plaintiff's Petition, Blair v. Ridgely, pages 1-7, February 1866.  
St. Louis Circuit Court.  
Missouri State Archives



### Frank Blair's Oath

"I, Francis P. Blair, Jr., do solemnly swear that I will protect and defend the Constitution of the United States, and of the State of Missouri against all enemies and opposers whether domestic or foreign; that I will bear true faith, loyalty and allegiance to the United States, and will not directly or indirectly, give aid and comfort or countenance to the enemies or opposers thereof, nor of the Government of the State of Missouri, any law, ordinance or resolution of any State Convention or Legislature, or of any order or organization, Secret or otherwise, to the contrary notwithstanding; and that I do this with a full and honest determination, pledge and purpose faithfully to keep and perform the same, without any mental reservation or evasion whatever, and that I do further solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution and Laws of the United States as the Supreme law of the land, any law or ordinance of any State to the contrary notwithstanding and I will to the best of my ability protect and defend the Union of the United States and not allow the same to be broken up and dissolved, or the government thereof to be destroyed or overthrown under any circumstances if in my power to prevent it; and make this oath without any mental reservation or evasion, and hold it to be binding on me."

Major General Frank Blair and his staff. Standing (left to right) Captain G. R. Steele, Captain William Henley of the 29th Missouri Infantry, Major Phil Tompkins, Lieutenant Colonel D. T. Kirby of the 29th Missouri Infantry. Seated (left to right) Brevet Brigadier General A. Hickenlooper, Blair, Major Charles Cadle. In the Civil War, Blair served as a major general and was in charge of Union troops from Illinois and Missouri.  
Library of Congress



Aerial view of commercial district of St. Louis, Missouri, c. 1862-1868

Library of Congress